



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/688,483	10/17/2003	Fabrice Billarant	CAC.P0033	2195
<div>7590 12/28/2007 Edward G. Greive Renner, Kenner, Greive, Bobak, Taylor &amp; Weber Fourth Floor First National Tower Akron, OH 44308-1456</div>			<div>EXAMINER RODRIGUEZ, RUTH C</div> <div>ART UNIT 3677 PAPER NUMBER</div> <div>MAIL DATE 12/28/2007 DELIVERY MODE PAPER</div>	

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/688,483

**Applicant(s)**

BILLARANT, FABRICE

**Examiner**

Ruth C. Rodriguez

**Art Unit**

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 12-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Claims 9-11 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Invention II, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on July 2005.
2. Applicant's election of Invention I in the reply filed on July 2005 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-8, 15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hattori et al. (US 5,662,853) in view of Fleuchaus et al. (US 6,842,950 B2) and Ito (US 7,108,904 B2).

Hattori discloses an article (20) over which a molding (14) is to be made by pouring foam on the article while the article is placed on top of a cavity (120) delimited by vertical walls having a top surface (Fig. 6a). The article comprises an element (20) having a central strip region and left and right ledge regions (Figs. 6a-6c). The element has a top surface and a bottom surface, fasteners (24) extending from the central strip region of the bottom surface and the element includes a material and a thickness (Figs. 6a-6c). The bottom surfaces of the ledge regions being in contact with the top surfaces of the vertical walls to provide surface to surface contact between the ledge regions and the vertical walls during the entire foam pour when the article is placed on top of the cavity, with the hooks inside the walls and facing the cavity (Figs. 6a-6c). The central strip region of the bottom surface, from which the fasteners are extending, except for the fasteners, is the lowest part of the article (Figs. 6a-6c). Hattori fails to disclose that the article has hooks as the fasteners, that a magnetically attractable material is fixed to the element and that the fastener strip has a width of less than 10 mm. However, Fleuchaus teaches an article over which a molding is to be made by pouring foam on it while it is place on top of a cavity (between walls 24) delimited by vertical walls (24) having a top surfaces (Fig. 2). The article comprises a base (52) having a central strip region a having a top surface and a bottom surface. Hooks (56) are extending from the central strip region of the bottom surface of the base and metallic material (60) is fixed on the bottom surface of the base (Figs. 5-7). The base is flat in shape (Figs. 1-3). The hooks serve to secure a trim cover to the molding during normal wear-and-tear of a motor vehicle seat that uses the molding (C. 3, L. 51-56). The metallic material is

Art Unit: 3677

attracted to a magnetic strip (38) extending along the bottom surface of the cavity and the magnetic attraction of the metallic material and the magnetic strip holds the article in place as the foam pad is molded and cured (C. 4, L. 12-23). . Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have hooks as the fasteners and the metallic material being fixed on the top of the base as taught by Fleuchaus in the article disclosed by Hattori. Since the hooks secure a trim cover to the molding during normal wear-and-tear of a motor vehicle seat that uses the molding and the metallic material is attracted to a magnetic strip located in the bottom of the cavity to hold the article in place as the foam pad is molded and cured. Regarding to the width of the strip, Itoh teaches an article (1,3) over which a molding is to be made by pouring foam on the article while the article is placed on top of a cavity delimited by vertical walls having a top surface (6) (C. 1, L. 28-43 and Fig. 1). The article comprises an element (3) having a central strip region and left and right ledge regions (5). The element has a top surface and a bottom surface, hooks (2) extending from the central strip region of the bottom surface, a magnetically attractable material (7) fixed to the element and the element includes a material and a thickness (Fig. 1). The hook strip has a width preferably between 4 to 50 mm (C. 4, L. 2-10 and C. 8, L. 31-39). The bottom surfaces of the ledge regions being in contact with the top surfaces of the vertical walls to provide surface to surface contact between the ledge regions and the vertical walls during the entire foam pour when the article is placed on top of the cavity, with the hooks inside the walls and facing the cavity (Fig. 1). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's

Art Unit: 3677

invention to have the hook strip having a width of less than 10 mm in the article disclosed by Hattori and modified by Fleuchaus since a change in the size of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art and Itoh also teaches that having a hook strip having a width less than 10 mm is well known in the molding art. In re Rose, 220 F.2d 459, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

Fleuchaus also teaches that the hooks are made in the form of longitudinal rows (Figs. 5-7). The hooks have a Christmas tree shape (Figs. 5-7).

The longitudinal strip (3) disclosed by Itoh comprises hooks stops at a distance from the longitudinal ends of the base, longitudinal end regions (5) thus being formed without hooks over a distance less than 15 mm, to enable the base to be placed at the level of its longitudinal ends directly on the top edges (6) of the walls forming the cavity (C. 4, L. 2-10 and C. 8, L. 31-39).

Itoh discloses that the base has a thickness of between 0.2 mm and 1 mm. Hattori, Fleuchaus and Itoh fail to disclose that the base is of polyamide 6 and has a thickness of between 0.2 mm and 0.4 mm or the base has a thickness of 0.15 to 0.35 mm and is of polyamide 6-6. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the base being made of polyamide 6 and having a thickness of between 0.2 mm and 0.4 mm or the base having a thickness of 0.15 to 0.35 mm and being made of polyamide 6-6 in the article disclosed by Hattori and modified with the teaching of Fleuchaus and Itoh since the selection of a known material based upon its suitability for the intended use is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Leshin, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416

Art Unit: 3677

(CCPA 1960). The use of polyamide 6 or polyamide 6-6 for the base of the article is well known in the molding art.

The metallic material taught by Fleuchaus is embodied in the form of a metallic resin rib fixed by gluing to the top surface of the base the metallic resin rib including two longitudinal reinforcements on either side of the resin-base interface to provide good anchoring of the foam (Figs. 5-7).

Fleuchaus and Itoh fail to teach that the resin rib comprises at least 6 g per linear meter of metallic powder for a total weight of metallic resin of at least 10 g per linear meter. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have the resin rib comprising at least 6 g per linear meter of metallic powder for a total weight of metallic resin of at least 10 g per linear meter in the article disclosed by Hattori and modified with the teaching of Fleuchaus and Itoh since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

Hattori discloses a moulded object (14) of foam to which one or more articles for moulding is fixed by hardening of the foam on the top surface of the base after the form has been poured in a mold (Figs. 6a-6c).

Hattori discloses that a mold including a base. The base includes a cavity having walls projecting from the base and the top edges of which being adapted to receive an article for molding over (Figs. 6a-6c). The article is fixed to a molded object by solidification of a foam that is poured there over (Figs. 6a-6c). Hattori fails to disclose

Art Unit: 3677

that the cavity has two side walls, spaced apart by a distance between 4.5 and 12 mm. However, Itoh teaches that the cavity has two side walls, spaced apart by a distance between 4.5 and 12 mm (C. 4, L. 2-10, C. 8, L. 31-39 and Fig. 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have the cavity has two side walls, spaced apart by a distance between 4.5 and 12 mm for the article disclosed by Hattori and modified by Fleuchaus and Itoh since a change in the size of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art and Itoh also teaches that having a cavity with two side walls, spaced apart by a distance between 4.5 and 12 mm is well known in the molding art. In re Rose, 220 F.2d 459, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

Hattori discloses an article (20) over which a molding (14) is to be made by pouring foam on the article while the article is placed on top of a cavity (120) delimited by vertical walls. Each vertical wall has a top surface (Fig. 6a). The article comprises an element (20) having a central strip region and left and right ledge regions (Figs. 6a-6c). The element has a top surface and a bottom surface, fasteners (24) extending from the central strip region of the bottom surface and the element includes a material and a thickness (Figs. 6a-6c). The bottom surfaces of the ledge regions are in contact with the top surfaces of the vertical walls to provide surface to surface contact between the ledge regions and the vertical walls during the entire foam pour when the article is placed on top of the cavity, with the hooks inside the walls and facing the cavity (Figs. 6a-6c). The central strip region of the bottom surface, from which the fasteners are extending, except for the fasteners, is the lowest part of the article (Figs. 6a-6c). Hattori



fails to disclose that the article has hooks as the fasteners; that a magnetically attractable material is fixed to the element and that the fastener strip has a width of less than 10 mm. However, Fleuchaus teaches an article over which a molding is to be made by pouring foam on it while it is placed on top of a cavity (between walls 24) delimited by vertical walls (24) having a top surface (Fig. 2). The article comprises a base (52) having a central strip region having a top surface and a bottom surface. Hooks (56) are extending from the central strip region of the bottom surface of the base and metallic material (60) is fixed on the bottom surface of the base (Figs. 5-7). The base is flat in shape (Figs. 1-3). The hooks serve to secure a trim cover to the molding during normal wear-and-tear of a motor vehicle seat that uses the molding (C. 3, L. 51-56). The metallic material is attracted to a magnetic strip (38) extending along the bottom surface of the cavity and the magnetic attraction of the metallic material and the magnetic strip holds the article in place as the foam pad is molded and cured (C. 4, L. 12-23). . Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have hooks as the fasteners and the metallic material being fixed on the top of the base as taught by Fleuchaus in the article disclosed by Hattori. Since the hooks secure a trim cover to the molding during normal wear-and-tear of a motor vehicle seat that uses the molding and the metallic material is attracted to a magnetic strip located in the bottom of the cavity to hold the article in place as the foam pad is molded and cured. Regarding to the width of the strip, Itoh teaches an article (1,3) over which a molding is to be made by pouring foam on the article while the article is placed on top of a cavity delimited by vertical walls having a

Art Unit: 3677

top surface (6) (C. 1, L. 28-43 and Fig. 1). The article comprises an element (3) having a central strip region and left and right ledge regions (5). The element has a top surface and a bottom surface, hooks (2) extending from the central strip region of the bottom surface, a magnetically attractable material (7) fixed to the element and the element includes a material and a thickness (Fig. 1). The hook strip has a width preferably between 4 to 50 mm (C. 4, L. 2-10 and C. 8, L. 31-39). The bottom surfaces of the ledge regions being in contact with the top surfaces of the vertical walls to provide surface to surface contact between the ledge regions and the vertical walls during the entire foam pour when the article is placed on top of the cavity, with the hooks inside the walls and facing the cavity (Fig. 1). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have the hook strip having a width of less than 10 mm in the article disclosed by Hattori and modified by Fleuchaus since a change in the size of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art and Itoh also teaches that having a hook strip having a width less than 10 mm is well known in the molding art. In re Rose, 220 F.2d 459, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

Itoh also teaches that the hook strip has a width between approximately 3 and 10 mm (C. 4, L. 2-10 and C. 8, L. 31-39).

Hattori discloses that the element is flat in shape (Figs. 6a-6c).

Fleuchaus teaches that the magnetically attractable material is fixed on the top surface of the element (Figs. 5-7).

Hattori discloses an article (20) over which a molding (14) is to be made by pouring foam on the article while the article is placed on top of a cavity (120) delimited by vertical walls (Figs. 6a-6c). Each of the vertical walls has a top surface (Figs. 6a-6c). The article comprises an element (20) having a central strip region and left and right ledge regions (Figs. 6a-6c). The element has a top surface and a bottom surface, fasteners (24) extending from the central strip region of the bottom surface and the element includes a material and a thickness (Figs. 6a-6c). The bottom surfaces of the ledge regions are in contact with the top surfaces of the vertical walls during the entire foam pour when the article is placed on top of the cavity with the hooks inside the walls and facing the cavity (Figs. 6a-6c). The central strip region of the bottom surface, from which the fasteners are extending, except for the fasteners, is the lowest part of the article (Figs. 6a-6c). Hattori fails to disclose that the article has hooks as the fasteners, that a magnetically attractable material is fixed to the element and that the fastener strip has a width of less than 10 mm. However, Fleuchaus teaches an article over which a molding is to be made by pouring foam on it while it is placed on top of a cavity (between walls 24) delimited by vertical walls (24) having a top surfaces (Fig. 2). The article comprises a base (52) having a central strip region having a top surface and a bottom surface. Hooks (56) are extending from the central strip region of the bottom surface of the base and metallic material (60) is fixed on the bottom surface of the base (Figs. 5-7). The base is flat in shape (Figs. 1-3). The hooks serve to secure a trim cover to the molding during normal wear-and-tear of a motor vehicle seat that uses the molding (C. 3, L. 51-56). The metallic material is attracted to a magnetic strip (38) extending along

Art Unit: 3677

the bottom surface of the cavity and the magnetic attraction of the metallic material and the magnetic strip holds the article in place as the foam pad is molded and cured (C. 4, L. 12-23). . Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have hooks as the fasteners and the metallic material being fixed on the top of the base as taught by Fleuchaus in the article disclosed by Hattori. Since the hooks secure a trim cover to the molding during normal wear-and-tear of a motor vehicle seat that uses the molding and the metallic material is attracted to a magnetic strip located in the bottom of the cavity to hold the article in place as the foam pad is molded and cured. Regarding to the width of the strip, Itoh teaches an article (1,3) over which a molding is to be made by pouring foam on the article while the article is placed on top of a cavity delimited by vertical walls having a top surface (6) (C. 1, L. 28-43and Fig. 1). The article comprises an element (3) having a central strip region and left and right ledge regions (5). The element has a top surface and a bottom surface, hooks (2) extending from the central strip region of the bottom surface, a magnetically attractable material (7) fixed to the element and the element includes a material and a thickness (Fig. 1). The hook strip has a width preferably between 4 to 50 mm (C. 4, L. 2-10 and C. 8, L. 31-39). The bottom surfaces of the ledge regions being in contact with the top surfaces of the vertical walls to provide surface to surface contact between the ledge regions and the vertical walls during the entire foam pour when the article is placed on top of the cavity, with the hooks inside the walls and facing the cavity (Fig. 1). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have the hook strip

having a width of less than 10 mm in the article disclosed by Hattori and modified by Fleuchaus since a change in the size of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art and Itoh also teaches that having a hook strip having a width less than 10 mm is well known in the molding art. In re Rose, 220 F.2d 459, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

Hattori discloses an article (20) over which a molding (14) is to be made by pouring foam on the article while the article is placed on top of a cavity (120) delimited by vertical walls (Figs. 6a-6c). Each of the vertical walls has a top surface (Fig. 6a-6c). The article comprises an element (20) having a central strip region and left and right ledge regions (Figs. 6a-6c). The element has a top surface and a bottom surface, fasteners (24) extending from the central strip region of the bottom surface (Figs. 6a-6c). The central strip region of the bottom surface, from which the fasteners are extending, except for the fasteners, is the lowest part of the article (Figs. 6a-6c). The article is in such a material and having a thickness that the bottom surfaces of the ledge regions being in contact with the top surfaces of the vertical walls during the entire foam pour when the article is placed on top of the cavity, with the hooks inside the walls and facing the cavity (Figs. 6a-6c). Hattori fails to disclose that the cavity has a magnet disposed in the bottom of the cavity, the article has hooks as the fasteners, that a magnetically attractable material is fixed to the element and that the fastener strip has a width of less than 10 mm. However, Fleuchaus teaches an article over which a molding is to be made by pouring foam on it while it is place on top of a cavity (between walls 24) delimited by vertical walls (24) having a top surfaces (Fig. 2). The article comprises

Art Unit: 3677

a base (52) having a central strip region a having a top surface and a bottom surface. Hooks (56) are extending from the central strip region of the bottom surface of the base and metallic material (60) is fixed on the bottom surface of the base (Figs. 5-7). The base is flat in shape (Figs. 1-3). The hooks serve to secure a trim cover to the molding during normal wear-and-tear of a motor vehicle seat that uses the molding (C. 3, L. 51-56). The metallic material is attracted to a magnetic strip (38) extending along the bottom surface of the cavity and the magnetic attraction of the metallic material and the magnetic strip holds the article in place as the foam pad is molded and cured (C. 4, L. 12-23). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to a magnet disposed in the bottom of the cavity, have hooks as the fasteners and the metallic material being fixed on the top of the base as taught by Fleuchaus in the article disclosed by Hattori. Since the hooks secure a trim cover to the molding during normal wear-and-tear of a motor vehicle seat that uses the molding and the metallic material is attracted to a magnetic strip located in the bottom of the cavity to hold the article in place as the foam pad is molded and cured. Regarding to the width of the strip, Itoh teaches an article (1,3) over which a molding is to be made by pouring foam on the article while the article is placed on top of a cavity delimited by vertical walls having a top surface (6) (C. 1, L. 28-43and Fig. 1). The article comprises an element (3) having a central strip region and left and right ledge regions (5). The element has a top surface and a bottom surface, hooks (2) extending from the central strip region of the bottom surface, a magnetically attractable material (7) fixed to the element and the element includes a material and a thickness (Fig. 1). The hook strip

Art Unit: 3677

has a width preferably between 4 to 50 mm (C. 4, L. 2-10 and C. 8, L. 31-39). The bottom surfaces of the ledge regions being in contact with the top surfaces of the vertical walls to provide surface to surface contact between the ledge regions and the vertical walls during the entire foam pour when the article is placed on top of the cavity, with the hooks inside the walls and facing the cavity (Fig. 1). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have the hook strip having a width of less than 10 mm in the article disclosed by Hattori and modified by Fleuchaus since a change in the size of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art and Itoh also teaches that having a hook strip having a width less than 10 mm is well known in the molding art. In re Rose, 220 F.2d 459, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 and 12-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### **Conclusion**

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C. Rodriguez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-6640.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.




Art Unit: 3677

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/RCR/  
Ruth C. Rodriguez  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3677

rcr  
December 6, 2007

  
**ROBERT J. SANDY**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**